

Laurel Highlands Council Merger History

The Laurel Highlands Council is one of only three non-contiguous councils in the United States, and the only one in the continental United States. The other two are the National Capitol Area Council, which also includes the American Virgin Islands, and Aloha Council, which also includes Guam and American Samoa. The Far East Council and the Transatlantic Council are also not contiguous, but are based in multiple nations at United States military bases.

The council is formed from three distinct regions, two non-contiguous portions of Pennsylvania, and (most recently) an area of Maryland and West Virginia located south of the eastern of the Pennsylvania regions.

The western portion of the Council, centered in the area of Pittsburgh is the result of the merger of six different long-term councils and in itself has a long and complicated history of mergers.

- The original Allegheny Council was founded in 1914, but split into seven smaller councils in 1921. These councils were:

- A smaller Allegheny Council # 495,
- Ohio Valley Council (no number),
- Guyasuta Council, which changed its name to the North Boroughs Council #523 in 1923,
- Chartiers Council, which changed its name to Monongahela Valley Council in 1924,
- Duquesne Council #509, which was re-formed as the Duquesne Council #830 in 1929,
- Pittsburgh Council #527, and
- South Hills Council #532

The first five of these councils gradually merged together between 1924 and 1930 to re-form the Allegheny Council #527 which continued in existence until 1967. In 1931, **Kuwewanik Lodge (57)** was chartered to Allegheny Council.

- The second of the major councils was formed from the last two of the seven councils that split from the original Allegheny Council (Pittsburgh and South Hills), as well as a Scout unit from another council in southwestern Pennsylvania, the Beaver Valley Council #497. These councils merged in 1928 to form the Allegheny County, West Council (confusingly, it also used the number 527). This council merged into Allegheny Council #527 in 1943, ending the #527 confusion. No OA Lodge was associated with this council.
- The third major council started as the Washington Council in 1917, but folded in 1919. A successor Washington Council #541 was founded in 1920, and incorporated the short-lived Donora Council in 1923. This council changed its name to the Washington County Council in 1925, to the Washington-Greene Counties Council in 1930, and to the Nemaocolin Trails Council in 1964. In 1943, **Chimalus Lodge (242)** was chartered to this council. In 1967, Allegheny Council #527 and Nemaocolin Trails Council #541 merged, to form the Allegheny Trails Council #527. **Kuwewanik Lodge (57)** and **Chimalus Lodge (242)** also merged as a result of the council merger. Resulting in the formation of **Kiasutha Lodge (57)**, which retained the lower of the two lodge numbers of the predecessor lodges.
- The fourth and fifth major councils both began in 1920. Homestead Council #516 changed its name to the Homestead and Affiliated Territory Council in 1924, to the Homestead District Council in 1926 and

finally to the Monongahela Valley Council in 1952. **Sagamore Lodge (130)** was chartered to this council in 1938. The McKeesport Council #521 changed its name to the McKeesport and Affiliated Territory Council in 1939 and to the Yohogania Council in 1951. **Shingis Lodge (497)** was chartered to this council in 1953. In 1971, the Monongahela Valley Council and the Yohogania Council merged to form the Mon-Yough Council #523, and **Sagamore Lodge (130)** and **Shingis Lodge (497)** also merged to form **Scarouady Lodge (130)**, another new name, but retaining the lower of the two lodge numbers of the predecessor lodges.

- The sixth major council was the East Boroughs Council #540, formed in 1921. It had a camp-based honor society known as the Tribe of Chief Tonnaleuka from the council's founding in 1921 until 1933, when the OA lodge, **Anicus Lodge (67)**, was founded. In most cases, members of pre-existing honor societies were inducted into the new lodges when they were founded.
- In 1973, the Mon-Yough Council #523 and the East Boroughs Council #540 merged to form the East Valley Area Council #530. **Anicus Lodge (67)** and **Scarouady Lodge (130)**, also merged, to form **Tanacharison Lodge (67)**, once again retaining the lower of the predecessor lodge numbers.
- In 1993, the final merger of the western portion of the Laurel Highlands Council took place. The Allegheny Trails Council #527 and the East Valley Area Council #530 merged to form the Greater Pittsburgh Council #527. **Kiasutha Lodge (57)** and **Tanacharison Lodge (67)** also merged, to form **Enda Lechauhanne Lodge (57)**, once again retaining the lower of the predecessor lodge numbers.

The eastern portion of the Laurel Highlands Council in Pennsylvania was formed by the merger of three long-term councils in 1970. These three councils and their associated OA lodges were:

- The Blair Bedford Area Council #496 was formed in 1929 as a result of the merger of the Tyrone Council #535 (1917-1929) and the Altoona Council #496 (1916 – 1929). In 1946, **Wopsonnock Lodge (347)** was chartered to this council.
- The Indiana County Council #517 was founded in 1919. It changed its name to the William Penn Council in 1933. In 1944, **Monachgeu Lodge (275)** was founded in this council; however the Lodge only lasted one year before disbanding.
- The Johnstown Council #518 was founded in 1921, and changed its name to the Greater Johnstown Area Council in 1932. In 1935, Somerset Council #532 merged into the Greater Johnstown Area Council. This council changed its name again in 1936 to the Admiral Robert E. Perry Council. **Amadahi Lodge (441)** was chartered to the Admiral Robert E. Perry Council in 1950.
- In 1953, the William Penn Council petitioned to restart an Order of the Arrow Lodge which was granted and **Hopocan Lodge (275)** was formed.

The Blair Bedford Area Council #496, the William Penn Council #517 and the Admiral Robert E. Perry Council #518 merged in 1970 to form the Penn's Woods Council #508. The three OA lodges, **Hopocan Lodge (275)**, **Wopsonnock Lodge (347)** and **Amadahi Lodge (441)** merged to form **Nachamawat Lodge (275)**.

In 2011, the two non-contiguous councils in Pennsylvania, the Greater Pittsburgh Council #527 and the Penn's Woods Council #508 merged to form the Laurel Highlands Council, retaining the #527 council number. **Enda Lechauhanne Lodge (57)** and **Nachamawat Lodge (275)** merged to form **Allohak Menewi Lodge (57)**. Once

again, the lowest number of the predecessor lodges was retained, meaning that four different lodges had used the 57 number.

The third portion of the Laurel Highlands Council is the former Potomac Council #757, headquartered in Cumberland Maryland, but including the eastern portion of West Virginia. This council was founded as Cumberland Council in 1926, and changed its name to Potomac Council in 1938. **Ahtuhquog Lodge (540)** was chartered to this council in 1959. In 2014, the Potomac Council merged into the Laurel Highlands Council, and **Ahtuhquog Lodge (540)** absorbed into **Allohak Menewi Lodge (57)**. Had it been a merger, we may have seen the fifth lodge with the 57 lodge number.

